

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA  
NO. 1:15-CV-00399

SANDRA LITTLE COVINGTON, *et al.*, )  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
v. )  
)  
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, *et al.* )  
)  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

**LEGISLATIVE DEFENDANTS’  
MOTION TO EXPEDITE  
RULING ON PLAINTIFFS’  
OBJECTIONS**

Legislative defendants respectfully move the Court to expedite its final ruling on plaintiffs’ Objections to the 2017 House and Senate redistricting plans (“Objections”) (D.E. 189). Specifically, legislative defendants request the Court’s final ruling on or before January 10, 2018—the next date that the North Carolina General Assembly is scheduled to be in session. Doing so will protect the State’s ability to seek meaningful Supreme Court review and take additional legislative action if necessary. To facilitate a ruling by that date, legislative defendants respectfully suggest that the hearing on the Special Master’s Recommended Plan and Report, currently scheduled for January 5, 2018, be held instead on or before December 22, 2017.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated above and in the contemporaneously filed brief, legislative defendants respectfully request that the Court issue its final ruling on the Objections on or before January 10, 2018.

This 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

/s/ Phillip J. Strach

Phillip J. Strach

N.C. Bar No. 29456

Michael D. McKnight

N.C. Bar No. 36932

4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 1100

Raleigh, North Carolina 27609

Phone: (919) 787-9700

Facsimile: (919) 783-9412

Email: phil.strach@ogletreedeakins.com

*Attorneys for Legislative Defendants*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 11th day of December, 2017, I have served the foregoing **LEGISLATIVE DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO EXPEDITE RULING ON PLAINTIFFS' OBJECTIONS** with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following:

Edwin M. Speas, Jr.  
Carolina P. Mackie  
Poyner Spruill LLP  
P.O. Box 1801 (27602-1801)  
301 Fayetteville St., Suite 1900  
Raleigh, NC 27601  
espeas@poynerspruill.com  
johale@poynerspruill.com  
cmackie@poymerspruill.com  
*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

Allison J. Riggs  
Southern Coalition for Social Justice  
1415 Highway 54, Suite 101  
Durham, NC 27707  
anita@southerncoalition.org  
allisonriggs@southerncoalition.org  
*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

Alexander McC. Peters  
Senior Deputy Attorney General  
N.C. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 629  
Raleigh, NC 27602

OGLETREE, DEAKINS, NASH,  
SMOAK & STEWART, P.C.

/s/ Phillip J. Strach  
Phillip J. Strach  
N.C. Bar No. 29456  
4208 Six Forks Road, Suite 1100  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609  
Phone: (919) 787-9700  
Facsimile: (919) 783-9412  
Email: phil.strach@ogletreedeakins.com

32286527.1

32286527.1